

Town Administrator's Report

March 26, 2013

The areas, issues and projects on which we have directed our attention and effort include, but are not limited to:

- Legislative language providing for the exemption of property tax revenues, to Ashland County, for services, departments and facilities maintained independently by La Pointe.
- Army Corps permitting and cultural issues.
- Harbor Improvement Project
- Forthright communication/discussions with County Administrator re: legislation
- Personnel Policy and Personnel Handbook continuing work and drafts – in conjunction with Administrative Assistant and volunteer professionals.
- Community Center outreach and community discussion
- Madeline Island School of the Arts Conditional Use Permit Amendment

Property Tax Exemption Legislation: Finalized language and focus for the legislation which can allow the Island (as well as Washington Island) to seek exemption from its property tax contributions to the County for self-sustained and financed services that duplicate those of the County. Rep Bewley is working with the Rep from Washington Island on co-sponsorship which will give use bi-partisan support.

Harbor Committee/Improvement Project: Filled vacancies and officers of the Committee – reviewed most recent proposal of JJR regarding consulting, engineering, design/development and permitting for Harbor Project – it is the correct initiative following acceptance and consideration of the Funding Strategy. It was decided to sequence the broad project – and, as a result, the new JJR proposal, with the Fishing/Transient Dock as the first phase --- Chair of Committee requested the proposal be broken down by phase – that issue is before the Board this evening.

Community Discussion – Community Center: With Town Board member, Nick Nelson, scheduled, posted and attended a broad community discussion regarding the continuing/growing interest in a Community Center – more than 25 people attended representing a cross-section of our year-round community. Excellent comments, thoughts, ideas and observations --- NN did a first-rate job of running the meeting --- high enthusiasm and interest – next meeting scheduled for 4/16, but may be rescheduled due to conflict with the Annual Town Meeting.

Madeline Island School of the Arts CUP Amendment: The issues surrounding the CUP were reviewed and considered and it was felt that downstream contention may be avoided if some language was clarified and some line items adjusted. The CUP was re-worked and revised to avoid those issues. Correcting a procedural and process mistake by the Administrator, the CUP revisions will be referred to the TPC for review and comment, prior to the Board taking up the revisions.

Outreach, discussions and community interaction continues to ensure the voice of the community is reflected in our work